

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapter 7
Weathering the Storm

Grade Level

Upper Elementary: Third Grade through Fifth Grade

Subject

Mathematics, Science

Common Core Standards

3.MD.B.3

Next Generation Science Standards

3-ESS2-1

Background Information

The weather plays a major role in chapter 7 as Karana and the other villagers prepare to set sail in a fierce storm. The storm rushes the ship's departure and makes Karana's swim back to shore treacherous.

This activity teaches students about the ways scientists record and use data about the weather to predict typical conditions. After recording their data in a graph, students will draw conclusions about typical weather patterns on San Nicolas Island.

Materials

- Copy of activity sheet for each student (provided)

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the activity sheet.
2. Go over the data provided and the questions asked.
3. Provide students with time to complete their work.
4. Have a class discussion, with students referencing their activity sheets. Discuss what other factors could make ocean travel difficult (such as wind speeds, wave height, ocean currents). Note: Travel to the Channel Islands is often most challenging during storms and high winds.

Enrichment Activities

Have students research weather data for where they live. How does their weather data compare with the data for San Nicolas Island? Website to reference: [Weather Spark](#)

Name _____

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Weather Data for San Nicolas Island, California

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Avg max temp (°F)	61.3	60.5	61.2	63.2	64.7	66.3	69.1	70.7	71.1	69.7	66.5	62.4	65.6
Avg min temp (°F)	50.1	50.2	50.6	50.7	53.0	54.5	56.6	57.9	58.4	56.7	54.5	51.8	53.7
Avg total rainfall (in.)	1.67	2.00	1.34	0.58	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.17	0.26	0.58	1.84	8.58

Data collected from [Western Regional Climate Center](#)

- Identify the row in the table showing average total rainfall.
- Find and then circle the three highest amounts and the months in which these amounts occurred.
- The months with the highest rainfall are:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- In what season do these three months occur? _____
- Study the weather data chart again. What months do you think may be best for ocean travel? _____
Why? _____
- Can you think of other weather and ocean conditions you may want to know about if you're planning an ocean trip by ship or canoe?

